Mission

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association serves as an advocate for the development, promotion, and improvement of library services and resources to the nation's African American community; and provides leadership for the recruitment and professional development of African American librarians.

Purpose

To call to the attention of the American Library Association the need to respond positively on behalf of the Black members of the profession and the information needs of the Black community by reviewing, analyzing, evaluating, and recommending to the American Library Association actions on the needs of Black librarians which will influence their status in the areas of recruitment, development, advancement, and general working conditions; and to provide information on qualifications of Black librarians.

To review the records and evaluate the positions of candidates for the various offices within the ALA to determine their impact upon Black librarians and services to the Black community.

To monitor the activities of Divisions, Round Tables and Committees of the American Library Association, by active participation within these groups, to make sure that they are meeting the needs of Black librarians.

To serve as a clearinghouse for information about Black Librarians in promoting their wider participation at all levels of the profession and the Association.

To support and promote efforts to achieve meaningful communication and equitable representation in state associations and on the governing and advisory boards of libraries at state and local levels.

To facilitate library service which will meet the information needs of Black people.

To encourage the development of authoritative information resources about Black people and the dissemination of this information to the larger community.

To open up channels of communication to and through Black librarians in every unit of the ALA.

Last updated January 15, 1997

For more information, visit http://www.bcala.org

President's Theme: Our BCALA theme for the next two years is: The Road to Organization Sustainability.



We will be concerned with all activities that will improve the capacity of the Black Caucus of the American Library association to execute its mission in an ongoing efficient and effective manner. **Bobby Player, Sr. – BCALA President, 2002-2004**

We shall strengthen our management system at all levels and work to develop and organizational culture that empowers and responds quickly to our membership's needs. To realize this vision, I have developed the following goals and objectives that will form the basis for BCALA'S operation activities over the next two years:

Strengthen the organization's operational systems

- Develop a policy manual for the BCALA;
- Develop a five-year budget plan;
- Review and revise the BCALA'S strategic plan.

Build and sustain BCALA'S membership

- Conduct a needs assessment study to determine what services the membership values, needs, and wants;
- Identify what other similar organization's are offering their membership;
- Develop marketing and communication strategies to increase and retain our membership at the level of 1,000 members.

Together great things can be accomplished - Things more important and more meaningful than I have outlined. You will be the driving force in seeing that these goals are accomplished.

2004 E. J. Josey Scholarship Award

The 2004 theme is: "The year 2004 marks 50th anniversary of the 1954 US Supreme Court Decision in the case of Brown vs. the Board of Education ending legal segregation in the U.S.. To what extent the court's decision affected African American librarians?"

The E. J. Josey Scholarships are two (2) unrestricted grants of **\$2,000** (beginning in 1997) to be awarded annually to African American students enrolled in, or accepted by, ALA accredited programs. Applicants are judged on the basis of application essays of 1,000 to 1,200 words discussing issues, problems, or challenges facing library service to minority populations such as African Americans, and other supporting documentation submitted for review by the scholarship committee.

Visit http://www.bcala.org/awards/josey.htm for more information.